

Applicants: Sung-Kyu KANG et al.
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Amendments to the Claims:

Without prejudice or disclaimer, please amend claims 1, and 4-6, and cancel claims 2, 3, 7 and 9, to read as shown below:

1. (Currently amended) A method for dewatering sewage sludge by using sludge-coal-oil co-agglomeration ("SOCA"), comprising the steps of:

physically, chemically or biologically conditioning sludge to impart hydrophobicity and lipophilicity to the sludge (conditioning step);

supplying oil and coal to the conditioned sludge with stirring to form sludge-coal-oil agglomerates comprising separated organic materials having a diameter of 500 µm or higher(agglomerating step);

enlarging the particle diameter of sludge-coal-oil agglomerates to the range from 0.5 mm to 3.0 mm by increasing the agglomeration force of the sludge-coal-oil agglomerates by stirring the agglomerates at a low speed using an agitator, pan-disk or tumbler, after the agglomerating step(size enlargement step); and

passing water with the dispersed unagglomerated inorganic residue the ~~enlarged sludge-coal-oil agglomerates~~ through a sieve having 48 mesh or less to selectively separate the enlarged sludge-coal-oil agglomerates ~~them~~(screening step); and

spray-washing and dewatering the enlarged sludge-coal-oil agglomerates after they are selectively separated from unagglomerated inorganic residue.

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2. (Cancelled)

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the agglomerating step is carried out by separately agglomerating the conditioned sludge and ~~conditioned~~ coal with oil (a first agglomeration), mixing the first agglomerates, and agglomerating the mixture (a second agglomeration).

5. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the agglomerating step is carried out by agglomerating the conditioned sludge with oil (a first agglomeration), adding ~~conditioned~~ coal and ~~conditioned~~ oil to the first agglomerates, and agglomerating the mixture (a second agglomeration).

6. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the agglomerating step is carried out by agglomerating ~~conditioned~~ coal with oil (a first agglomeration), adding the conditioned sludge to the first agglomerates, and agglomerating the mixture (a second agglomeration).

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the oil used in the agglomerating step is selected from heavy oil, light oil, kerosene, cooking oil, waste cooking oil, castor oil, soybean oil, hempseed oil, waste lubricant and

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mixtures thereof.

9. (Cancelled)